

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 ARA-10
/124 W

-----092523 232140Z /73

P R 232046Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1978
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: PORG, PEPR, FR, XA
SUBJECT: THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN SUMMIT: NOT THE
MEETING THAT WAS PLANNED

SUMMARY: THE AGENDA FOR THE FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT DRAWN
UP BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO MET IN PARIS MAY 12
AND 13 WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ECONOMIC AND

DEVELOPMENTAL SUBJECTS. QUAI SOURCES TELL US THAT QUESTIONS OF SECURITY COOPERATION WERE TO HAVE FIGURED IN THE INFORMAL MEETINGS AND IN PRESIDENT GISCARD'S BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS BUT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZED. THE SHABA INCURSION AND FRENCH/BELGIAN INTERVENTION HAVE CHANGED THE SCENARIO. ECONOMIC SUBJECTS STILL DOMINATE THE AGENDA BUT HAVE HAD TO MAKE ROOM FOR SECURITY QUESTIONS NOW UNDERLINED BY THE SOMEWHAT DRAMATIC ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU FOR THE SECOND DAY OF THE CONFERENCE. GISCARD HAS JUSTIFIED FRANCE'S LIMITED INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND HAS FOUND A SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF AN AFRICAN FORCE TO REPLACE THE FRENCH IN SHABA OR OF A PERMANENT AFRICAN FORCE TO REACT IN SIMILAR INSTANCES BUT THIS IS UNLIKELY TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIFTH FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT GOT UNDERWAY AS SCHEDULED MAY 22 WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF TWENTY-ONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE PARTICIPANTS (THOSE REPRESENTED AT CHIEF OF STATE LEVEL INDICATED BY CS): BENIN; BURUNDI; CONGO; CAPE VERDE; IVORY COAST (CS); DJIBOUTI (CS); CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE (CS); GABON (CS); GUINEA BISSAU; UPPER VOLTA; MALI (CS); MAURITIUS; MAURITANIA (CS); NIGER (CS); LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RWANDA (CS); SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE; SENEGAL (CS); SEYCHELLES (CS); CHAD (CS); TOGO (CS); AND ZAIRE (CS).

2. THE CONFERENCE HAS DEVIATED RATHER FAR FROM THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT. ACCORDING TO THE LOOSE AGENDA PROPOSED BY THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND AGREED TO BY THE OTHER MINISTERS AT THE MAY 12-13 PREPARATORY MEETING, THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED:

- GENERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSION

- FOLLOW-UP TO NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

- VIEWS ON A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

- PRESENTATION BY THE AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS OF THEIR ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

- PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN STATES WITH THE EEC

- THE PROBLEM OF THE SAHARA.

QUAI SOURCES TELL US THAT THIS ECONOMIC AND
DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED AGENDA WAS NOT EXPECTED TO PRO-
DUCE ANY DRAMATIC RESULTS BUT TO UNDERLINE AND
SOLIDIFY FRENCH-AFRICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION.
GIVEN THE SOMEWHAT HETEROGENEOUS NATURE OF THE GATHER-
ING, POLITICAL AND SECURITY SUBJECTS WERE TO BE TAKEN
UP PRIMARILY IN INFORMAL MEETINGS AND IN THE BILATERALS
WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY

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WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THESE NON-ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, BUT THEY WERE NOT INTENDED TO DOMINATE THE MEETING. IN THE EVENT, POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS HAVE DOMINATED PRESS COVERAGE IF NOT THE MEETINGS THEMSELVES IN THE WAKE OF THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN INTERVENTION IN SHABA. THE RATHER DRAMATIC ARRIVAL OF GENERAL MOBUTU ON THE MORNING OF THE LAST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE SEEMS LIKELY TO ENSURE THAT THE SUMMIT WILL END ON THE SAME NOTE.

3. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING SAID THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY RESTS WITH THE AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES WHO MUST BY THEIR ACTIONS REFUSE TO LET AFRICA BE RAVAGED BY BLOC POLITICS. REPEATING A FAMILIAR FRENCH THEME HE SAID THAT PEACE IS THE PRIMARY CONDITION FOR AFRICAN PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT. DEFENDING BOTH FRANCE AND THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HE SAID "IT IS NOT FROM ANY OF THE STATES REPRESENTED HERE THAT VIOLENCE SPREADS IN AFRICA" AND FRENCH INTERVENTION "IN EACH CASE INVOLVED ONLY LIMITED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE." IN HIS REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA ATTACKED THE "BRUTAL INTERFERENCE" OF FOREIGN STATES IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH MERCENARIES AND THEN WENT ON TO REAFFIRM THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF AFRICAN STATES "TO CALL UPON FRIENDLY STATES WHEN THEIR INTEGRITY IS COMPROMISED OR THREATENED." THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC CRITICISM OF FRENCH POLICIES BY PARTICIPANTS TO DATE.

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4. WHILE GISCARD DID DEVOTE PART OF HIS SPEECH TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE MAJOR FRENCH ADDRESS IN THIS AREA WAS GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER BARRE AT A

LUNCHEON MAY 22. HE CALLED FOR A NEW BASIS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND EXPRESSED FRANCE'S HOPE THAT THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WILL RESULT IN A "JUST AND EFFICIENT WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER". THIS REQUIRES THAT "ON BOTH SIDES REALISM AND CLEAR SIGHTEDSS CARRY THE DAY AGAINST DOCTRINES AND ILLUSIONS". REFERRING TO THE FORTHCOMING OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON RENEWING THE LOME CONVENTION HE PROMISED FRANCE'S SUPPORT IN "CONSOLIDATING WHAT HAS BEEN ACQUIRED, PERFECTING THE INSTRUMENT, AND PREVENTING ANY RISK OF DILUTION OF THE ADVANTAGES ENJOYED BY THE ASSOCIATED STATES." FINALLY, HE ANNOUNCED FRANCE'S DECISION TO DEVOTE 0.7 PER CENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MONDAY EVENING AN ELYSEE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT FRANCE HAD DECIDED TO INCREASE ITS AID TO THE SAHEL REGION BY SIXTY MILLION FRANCS IN 1978 AND BY 100 MILLION IN 1979.

5. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT ENDORSE THE FORMATION OF AN AFRICAN FORCE TO ASSIST ZAIRE OR OTHER MODERATE STATES FACING EXTERNAL THREATS. THE IDEA DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE EVOKED MUCH ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT IN THE COURSE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS PRESIDENT GISCARD HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE AMONG THOSE STATES MOST CONCERNED BY THE SOVIET AND CUBAN THREAT.

6. WE WILL BE GETTING READOUT FROM QUAI MAY 24.
HARTMAN
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Message Attributes

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